



**ABOVE** • Taking a gander? The appearance of this bird indicates one goose family has returned to its campus home. See p. 2.

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# nih record

*Next Up: Rewriting the Annals of Science*

## Fee, Pinn Tout Women's History in Medicine, at NIH

By Carla Garnett

**D**r. Elizabeth Fee's mom begged her to go to cooking school, but learning to cook and clean was the furthest thing from the teenage Fee's mind. By contrast Dr. Vivian Pinn says she still takes pride in the Betty Crocker Homemaker of the Year Award she won in high school. Although two starkly different paths led them to careers at NIH, both Fee and Pinn agree the nation could use more help "Writing Women into the History of Science." That was the refrain for NIH's Mar. 17 observance of Women's History Month.

Adapting the month's national theme, "Writing Women Back into History," the 2010 NIH celebration was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management. The event refo-

SEE WOMEN'S HISTORY, PAGE 6



Dr. Elizabeth Fee



Dr. James Levine

*Burn Calories Without Exercise*

### Why Getting Up from Your Chair Is NEAT

By Valerie Lambros

Everyone knows that sitting in your office chair and staring at your computer screen for hours at a time isn't all that good for you, but many of us do it anyway.

With so many people in office jobs that tether them to technology, it is little wonder that the U.S. has seen such an explosion in obesity rates. Unless you already have a daily regimen that includes time for working out, you may feel there's no way to get the exercise you need to burn those extra calories.

SEE NEAT, PAGE 4

## CTSA Industry Forum Tackles Challenges Of Collaboration

By Lila Guterman

Urging participants to "think boldly" about improving collaborative research processes, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins opened the National Center for Research Resources' 2-day forum to promote better partnerships among biomedical research sectors. Such radical thinking, Collins commented, is required for the biomedical research community to cross the so-called "valley of death"—the gap that separates basic research from pharmaceutical and medical device development.

"If there are barriers getting in the way of partnerships," he said, "let's identify them and see what we can do about them."

Collins spoke to an audience of more than 400 at the recent "Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Industry Forum: Promoting Efficient and Effective Collaborations among Academia, Government and Industry." Designed to explore ways to streamline the development of new drugs, devices and diagnostics, the forum focused on challenges,

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## briefs

### STEP Forum on Early Influences on Health

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee will present a Science for All forum on the topic "Blast from the Past: Early Influences on Long-Term Health" on Thursday, Apr. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Natcher Bldg., Rms. E1/E2.

Did your grandmother's diet influence your health? What is epigenetics and how does it influence disease risk? How much should public health interventions be aimed at the developmental period? The "developmental origins" hypothesis proposes that influences in early life can affect long-term health. Now, well-described epigenetic modifications of gene expression may provide a basis for understanding these phenomena. This forum will investigate the science behind this hypothesis.

### NIH 2010 National Day of Prayer

This year's NIH National Day of Prayer will be held Thursday, May 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Bldg. 1. Come out and join fellow NIH'ers, patients and friends to celebrate a day Congress has set aside for our country. Federal and military compounds all over the U.S. will have their National Day of Prayer program on this same day with guest speakers, music and prayer. Bring your friends and family. All are welcome.

### Travel Show Scheduled for Apr. 29

Visit with vendors from amusement parks, hotels, car rental companies and more at the R&W Travel Show on Thursday, Apr. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Bldg. 31A's patio. Enter drawings for a chance to win tons of prizes. Chick-Fil-A will have lunch for sale. For more information, call the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association, (301) 496-6061.

### PubMed Extends Its Reach Backward, To Go Forward

Harry Truman was President, gasoline cost 15 cents a gallon, the transistor was invented and internationally renowned surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey was publishing articles on the U.S. Army's World War II experience with battle injuries, military surgery and the use of streptomycin therapy. Citations to these and more than 60,000 other articles indexed in the 1947 Current List of Medical Literature are now available in the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE/PubMed database ([www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)).

When the original MEDLINE database made its debut in 1971, it contained citations to journal articles mostly published from approximately 1966 forward. NLM began to expand the retrospective coverage of the database in 1996, when more than 307,000 citations originally published in the 1964 and 1965 Cumulated Index Medicus were made available as OLDMEDLINE. The library has been moving steadily backward in time ever since.

Although 1947 may seem far back in the rear view mirror of history, important articles in biomedicine appeared that year and they may hold vital lessons for research in the 21st century.

"Some contemporary medical questions can only be answered by consulting the older literature," observed NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg. "NLM is working to make the journal citations in older printed indexes electronically searchable and our goal is to go back at least as far as World War II."

With the addition of the 1947 citations, MEDLINE/PubMed subset now contains over 20 million citations produced during 63 years of indexing the biomedical literature.



### So, Have You Cured Bird Flu Yet?

*Just as predicted, the family of Canada geese that used the front of Bldg. 5 for a home last year appears to have returned, and is again in family-building mode. On Mar. 29, NIDDK's Ying F. Huang took this photo of a curious goose peering in at the doings in Bldg. 5. The animal's behavior brings to mind the words of The Meters' song, They All Asked for You: "I went on up to the Audubon Zoo and they all asked for you...they even inquired about you."*



## Lifting the Bottom Billion Defeating Neglected Diseases Is Focus of LaMontagne Lecture

By Anne A. Oplinger

The world's "bottom billion"—subsistence farmers, urban poor and all those who live on less than a dollar a day—have suffered the consequences of extreme poverty for generations. The most destitute are not only poor, says Dr. Peter J. Hotez, they are also chronically ill. A group of infectious illnesses, collectively termed neglected tropical diseases, are largely to blame for keeping the bottom billion in poverty. But recent attention to these previously neglected maladies is beginning to pay off, says Hotez, distinguished research professor and chair of George Washington University's department of microbiology, immunology & tropical medicine.

Hotez, who also serves as president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, will describe advances in combating neglected tropical diseases and outline the challenges that remain in the 2010 John Ring LaMontagne Memorial Lecture. The lecture will be held in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, on Thursday, Apr. 22 at 2 p.m.

Unlike HIV, TB or malaria, says Hotez, the seven most common neglected tropical diseases typically do not kill people. Instead, these chronic infections, including six caused by parasitic worms, tend to debilitate victims, degrading quality of life for years on end. The effects are both individual and societal, he explains. Intestinal parasitic worms, for example, infect many hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The parasites—roundworms, whipworms and hookworms—stunt the physical and intellectual growth of children and make it difficult for adults to work.

Another kind of parasitic worm causes schistosomiasis, which can damage the liver, bladder, kidneys and other organs. Schistosomiasis and some of the other neglected diseases also can damage the reproductive tract, making it more vulnerable to infection with HIV or other microbes. Aside from causing profound suffering in individuals, the neglected diseases also hold back entire economies, says Hotez. In India alone, he says, the disfiguring and disabling parasitic disease called elephantiasis is estimated to cause worker productivity losses totaling \$1 billion annually.

"That's the bad news. The good news is we can treat neglected diseases, often at very little cost per treated person," Hotez says. Safe and effective anti-worming medications have been successfully used



Dr. Peter J. Hotez

in nationwide mass administration efforts, he adds. Drugs have forced down rates of schistosomiasis in eight African countries, for example.

More remains to be done, however, according to Hotez. In his lecture, he will describe some of the current projects of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, including initiatives aimed at developing vaccines against hookworm and schistosomiasis. If successful, such vaccines could do much to alleviate disease and destitution among the bottom billion.

The lecture honors contributions to NIH and public health made by LaMontagne over the course of a 30-year career with NIAID. He was the institute's first influenza program officer and the director of its Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. LaMontagne was NIAID deputy director from 1998 until his death in 2004. ☪



### 3rd Annual NIH 'Take a Hike Day,' May 20

It's time once again to lace up your walking shoes. All NIH employees and contractors are invited to participate in "Take a Hike Day," a non-competitive walk/run on Thursday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., rain or shine.

What better way to take a break than to go for a stroll or jog around the perimeter of campus? How far can you walk—quarter mile, mile or how about 2.8 miles? No matter how far, the ultimate goals are to begin or continue a regular habit of physical activity and create a foundation for long-term behavior changes for a healthier lifestyle.

#### Support Your IC When You Register

Earn your institute/center bragging rights for the most registered employees participating in this year's hike. Before the walk/run begins, the top six ICs with the most registered employees will be recognized by the NIH director with a 2010 NIH Take a Hike Day trophy. Online registration begins on Monday, Apr. 26 and will remain open through Friday, May 14. Register at [http://does.ors.od.nih.gov/fitness/hike\\_registration.htm](http://does.ors.od.nih.gov/fitness/hike_registration.htm). Winners will be determined based on the highest percentage of employees who register within their IC.

#### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up/clean-up and at the 5 water stations along the hike trail. If you are interested, contact Pam Jenkins at [jenkinsp@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jenkinsp@mail.nih.gov) or (301) 402-8180.

#### Special Event Shuttles Provided

The Division of Amenities and Transportation Services, ORS, will provide 2 additional shuttle buses on hike day, starting at 10 a.m. and running every 30 minutes until noon along the Executive Plaza Blvd. and Rockledge Dr. routes. These buses will display the hike logo. For details visit [http://does.ors.od.nih.gov/fitness/hike\\_schedule.htm](http://does.ors.od.nih.gov/fitness/hike_schedule.htm) or call (301) 402-8180.

This event, sponsored by the NIH Office of Management, ORS and the R&W Association, is being held in conjunction with the 2010 National President's Challenge ([www.presidentchallenge.org](http://www.presidentchallenge.org)) and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management HealthierFeds initiative ([www.healthierfeds.opm.gov](http://www.healthierfeds.opm.gov)).

Individuals who need sign language interpreters and/or reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should call Jenkins at the number above. Requests should be made at least 5 days before the event.

## NEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



much. Owen said that as our society presses forward, we generate more and more ways to make our lives more efficient and more convenient.

While this might seem like progress, for decades now we have been experiencing a “diminishing background of activity.” Remote controls, robotic vacuum cleaners, video games, smart technology and other devices meant to make our lives easier, better informed or better entertained have also taken away much of the effort we’d ordinarily expend.

While we may defend our motionless lifestyles as byproducts of life in the modern world, we can’t protect ourselves from the health hazards of sedentary life by sitting back and doing nothing. All talk and no action means we may soon reverse the decades-long trend of children living longer than their parents.

“There is a direct relationship between an increase in TV time and an increase in waist circumference,” Owen said. And with an increase in waist circumference comes a jump in chronic health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol and many other weight-related conditions, including early death.

However, Owen sees at least one easy way to fend off this looming menace. Even with the same total amount of time spent sitting in a day, “more breaks are associated with a lower average waist circumference.”

Which brings us back to NEAT. By getting up from your chair more often for small walks—to the mailbox, to the coffee shop, to a co-worker’s office (rather than sending an email)—you will be doing your body a big favor.

The rule of thumb, Levine said, is “if you’ve been sitting for more than 50 minutes, it’s time to get up.”

However, according to a recent lecture at Wilson Hall presented by two visiting researchers, one answer to the exercise question could be rather NEAT, as in non-exercise activity thermogenesis. It’s a fancy way of describing all the other activity you do throughout the day that’s not specifically exercise.

Think mowing the lawn, doing laundry or dragging the recycling bin to the curb. These activities expend calories, and while it may not be a huge amount, it’s better than nothing. Plus, this puttering breaks up the hours of continuous sitting you might otherwise do, which is meaningful in itself. At work, such diversions could be walking to the water fountain, taking the stairs or delivering an envelope to its destination rather than putting it through inter-office mail.

“Most people expend most of their NEAT in low-velocity, short-duration walks,” said Dr. James Levine of the Mayo Clinic. “When you average all the walks we do every day, it’s about 1.1 miles an hour.”

Obviously, we’re not talking about breaking a sweat here, but instead, cultivating a habit of regular movement to combat sedentary lifestyles.

Levine has pioneered innovative stand-up work environments in which employees walk slowly on treadmills while talking on the phone or conduct their meetings while walking together along a track marked in tape on the floor. His office at the Mayo Clinic is structured this way, and often first-time visitors have to be told that they’ve reached the right place. It looks more like a gym than your average office.

But aside from its revolutionary look, it’s shown to be wildly effective in increasing productivity, helping employees either maintain or lose weight and engendering a positive attitude among the workforce. It also has other welcome advantages.

“Meetings have become about 20 minutes shorter,” Levine said.

Dr. Neville Owen of the University of Queensland in Australia is studying the consequences of sedentary behavior. His research paints an unflattering picture of what modern cultures face, but it shouldn’t come as any great surprise.

“We’ve been chronically flat-lined by chairs” in terms of activity levels, he said. And “sitting induces muscular inactivity.”

Unfortunately, we’ve all been sitting way too

### Right:

Dr. Neville Owen of the University of Queensland in Australia studies the consequences of sedentary behavior. His research paints an unflattering picture of what modern cultures face.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON



## Insel To Receive Prize for Brain Hormone Studies

NIMH director Dr. Thomas R. Insel is among three neuroscientists who will share the 2010 Foundation Ipsen Neuronal Plasticity Prize for their studies on the “neuroendocrine control of behavior.”

The French foundation presents the award to “researchers who publish remarkable, pioneering studies.” Insel will share the prize with Drs. Donald Pfaff and Bruce McEwen, both of Rockefeller University.

A psychiatrist and neuroscientist, Insel discovered how brain systems for the hormones oxytocin and vasopressin mediate social behaviors such as parental care and pair bonding. He conducted much of this research in different species of voles, small mouse-like rodents that have evolved divergent forms of social organization. Some vole species are monogamous and highly social, while others are loners. Insel’s research revealed striking differences in the location of the receptors for the hormones that account for the species differences in social behaviors.

These studies, which Insel reviews in the journal *Neuron* this month, led to greater understanding of the molecular basis of parenting behavior, pair bonding and aggression. They also helped launch the field of social neuroscience. More recently, this research inspired new approaches to treating social behavior impairments; just last month, researchers reported that oxytocin can improve social behavior in autism.

Insel began his prize-winning studies in the mid-1980s at NIMH labs in Poolesville. A decade later, he continued them at Emory University, where he was the founding director of the NSF-funded Center for Behavioral Neuroscience and director of an NIH-funded Center for Autism Research.

The Foundation Ipsen Prize in Neuronal Plasticity will be presented at a symposium at the 7th Forum of European Neuroscience in Amsterdam on July 4.



## CSR Makes It Easier to Tune in to Reviews

CSR is piloting a new online system that allows program officers from NIH institutes and centers to see in real time the lineup of applications being reviewed in CSR’s study sections. Using the online system, program officers can more easily dial into review meetings and listen to discussions.

It has always been important for program officers to witness reviews of applications assigned to them for possible funding. Hearing the reviews helps them more fully understand the strengths and weaknesses in the applications. This knowledge is critical when they address questions from applicants and facilitate the second level of review for determining which applications are funded.

In recent years, it has become difficult for program officers to attend review meetings. There are more meetings than ever and many are held in cities outside of the Washington, D.C., area.

A few years ago, CSR made it possible for program officers to listen to review discussions via a secure teleconference service. But life was still difficult for the officers, who often had to wait on the phone for their applications to be discussed and juggle a number of calls because their applications went to multiple review groups.

CSR responded by piloting the new CSR Real Time Meeting Status online system. “This was a great idea generated and implemented by some of our bright scientific review officers,” said CSR director Dr. Toni Scarpa. “We’ve received lots of praise from participating program officers and we will offer the service to all of them very soon.”



*A CSR study section pilots the Real Time Meeting Status online system, which allows program officers from NIH institutes and centers to see in real time the lineup of applications being reviewed.*



## WOMEN'S HISTORY

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**Above:**  
ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pinn describes accomplishments of women at NIH over the last two decades.

**Below:**  
NCRR director Dr. Barbara Alving offers closing remarks at the Women's History Month observance.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL SPENCER



cused attention on the successful National Library of Medicine exhibit “Changing the Face of Medicine,” which debuted at NIH in October 2003 and is now touring the country. Created by the NLM History of Medicine Division that Fee directs, the exhibit salutes the achievements and inspirational stories of notable American women physicians throughout history.

As popular and informative as “Changing the Face” has become over the years, a growing consensus believes a similar effort should be launched to place women rightfully in the annals of all scientific disciplines. The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health, which Pinn directs, has already jumpstarted such a project with publication of *Women in Science at the National Institutes of Health 2007-2008*, a 225-page book featuring nearly 300 distinguished profiles and narratives.

The personal stories are key because, as several participants pointed out, who knows whose story will inspire a youngster to pursue science as a career? For example, Fee's interest in science—seen as unusual for a girl and strongly discouraged by her parents—was sparked by reading about two high-achieving scientists.

“Domestic science”—the fine art of keeping a household—was the most appropriate and practical pursuit for a girl, Fee's mother insisted. But fascinated by a magazine article describing the double helix work of Watson and Crick, Fee wanted to pursue biochemistry.

“I wanted to become a scientist and to make

great discoveries,” she recalled. “Cooking school was the last place I wanted to go.”

She eventually convinced her parents to let her study chemistry at Cambridge University, but found she “liked reading and thinking about science more than actually doing it.”

Offered a fellowship for graduate study in the history and philosophy of science and a Fulbright travel grant to leave her home in Ireland and attend Princeton University, Fee discarded her first dissertation topic on the history of structural chemistry to propose instead a history of women in science. Her advisor rejected it, saying, “There's nothing much to write about.” Fee wound up researching the science of gender differences in Victorian England. Studying that subject, she discovered how men of that era felt about a college education for women: Concentrated learning misdirected vital energy to a woman's brain thereby draining her uterus of its important force and poorly affecting her ability to carry and rear children.

“A woman was basically a uterus wrapped in an attractive package,” Fee recounted. Audience members chuckled at her description of the theory, but sobered quickly when she recalled that as recently as 2003, some influential men—notably a former president of Harvard—have voiced similar notions.

Fee then traced women's slow advance in science: After decades of merely assisting husbands, brothers and fathers in scientific pursuits, females gradually were encouraged first to pursue fields “appropriate” for them such as botany and nutrition.

By the early 1900s—the “big science era”—the ranks of women in the sciences rapidly expanded due to a scarcity of men for such work during World War I and the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic.

“Women who wanted to succeed in science usually adopted the ‘Marie Curie strategy’ of working so hard that they would be better than most of the men,” Fee concluded. “Women have made steady gains ever since, culminating with the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine won in 1983 by Dr. Barbara McClintock,” the only woman to win the prize unshared in that category.

Pinn's talk focused on more recent—and more local—history: She highlighted achievements by women at NIH in the last two decades. First, though, she humorously took issue with any knocks on homemaking studies.

“I learned how to measure a level teaspoon and sew a straight seam even before I learned how



to read,” Pinn quipped, noting that her “home ec” award is one she will always cherish because her mother, a school teacher in the 1940s, had earned a master’s degree in so-called domestic science from New York University. The accomplishment was a rarity for a woman of color in the era of segregation.

Pinn used slides to illustrate how the ranks of women in leadership posts at NIH have grown, and to contrast the number of women IC directors in 1991 when Pinn arrived at NIH (2) with the number since (9). She noted that NIH currently has only one female IC scientific director, Dr. Kathryn Zoon of NIAID.

Over the course of its history, ORWH and various collaborating organizations, have addressed women’s health issues from multiple angles, including the need to attract and retain more women in science careers. Concerns the groups have tackled range from institutional culture changes and tenure-track clock extensions to family-friendly work environments and child care provisions.

“I think that mentoring and role-modeling are so important for both women and men to advance in their careers—in science or whatever field,” Pinn pointed out, reiterating the need for more people to share their stories of personal achievement as inspiration for the next generation.

“I think about it as workforce diversity,” said NCRR director Dr. Barbara Alving, noting in closing remarks that enrollment at medical schools is now almost 50 percent women and up to about 80 percent women at veterinary schools.

She concluded, “We’ve come a long way and we’re moving even farther ahead. Workforce diversity is something that we’re never going to be able to say, ‘Okay, that’s done. Let’s look at something new.’ We constantly have to show up—whoever we are...We can be minorities in so many ways—age, gender, race, ethnicity, M.D., Ph.D.—but working together, it’s amazing what we can accomplish.”

## NEI’s Zelenka Retires After 37 Years at NIH

Dr. Peggy Zelenka, chief of NEI’s Laboratory of Molecular and Developmental Biology (LMDB), recently retired and is now scientist emeritus. During her 37-year career, she published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals, received many distinguished awards for scientific achievement, mentored more than 20 postdoctoral fellows and served on a number of governing committees at NIH and in the vision community.



Zelenka received a Ph.D. in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University. In 1972, she joined the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as a postdoctoral fellow. In 1974, she moved to NEI as a senior staff fellow, subsequently becoming principal investigator, section head and laboratory chief at the institute. Her mentor, Dr. Joram Piatigorsky, said, “I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with Peggy for more than 35 years; her significant and far-reaching research, excellent mentoring and steady devotion have been major assets of the LMDB since its inception in 1982.”

Zelenka studied signal transduction pathways that regulate differentiation, migration and adhesion of lens and corneal epithelial cells of the eye. She identified growth factors responsible for lens epithelial cell growth and differentiation and demonstrated an important role of phospholipids in these processes. She pioneered the study of arachidonic acid metabolites in the lens and showed that one member of this family is essential for cell division in this tissue. She is perhaps best known, however, for her work on the enzyme Cdk5. Her lab discovered that this enzyme, thought to be limited to neurons, was present in the lens—a tissue that has no nerves. The laboratory demonstrated that Cdk5 is important in regulating cell adhesion and migration in a variety of epithelial cells, not just those of the lens. Notably, they showed that inhibition of Cdk5 activity increases the rate of corneal wound closure *in vivo*, a finding with important clinical implications.

Zelenka received the 1992 NEI Director’s Award, the 1995 Senju Pharmaceutical Award for Cataract Research, the 1998 Alcon Research Foundation Award and the 2005 NIH postbac IRTA committee Outstanding Mentoring Certificate.

She also served on many governing committees including the NIH central tenure committee, the NIH committee on scientific conduct and ethics and the NIH ombudsman advisory committee. She was on the editorial boards of *Molecular Vision* and *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*.

In the early 1990s, an NIH task force was established to assess the status of women scientists in the intramural program. As the NEI representative, Zelenka participated in a report recommending that each institute have a woman scientist advisor (WSA). This was implemented and Zelenka served a 2-year term as chair of the NIH WSA committee and two terms as NEI representative. More recently, she was a member of a second task force that reassessed the status of women and tried to identify factors that impeded women scientists from pursuing long-term research careers. She helped draft suggestions for increasing workplace flexibility for women scientists.

“Peggy has been an excellent scientist, mentor and role model,” said Dr. Deborah Carper, NEI acting deputy director. “She showed quiet activism that helped make a positive change in career advancement and child care issues at NIH.”

In retirement, Zelenka’s main focus will be to mentor NEI fellows and engage in such hobbies as gardening and studying Japanese language and culture.

## CTSA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

current practices and successful management models.

Meeting presentations, breakout sessions and a poster session covered broad overviews from the state of collaborative research to case studies that examined ways to move products from the idea stage to the market. The need for partners to align their goals and timelines was one of several common themes. Speakers advocated more early-stage, “proof of concept” funding and discussed various sources of support.

“Unless we learn to collaborate better, we aren’t going to be able to deliver the innovations patients need,” said Dr. John Wagner, vice president of clinical pharmacology at Merck. “Industry, academia, government and regulatory scientists all must collaborate to advance disease research and develop innovative medicines.”

Resonating throughout the event was the requirement that everyone understand the needs and interests of their research partners. Forum

speakers noted the diversity of stakeholders, including patients and advocacy groups, academic and government scientists, businesses small and large and regulators. Another recurring theme was that stakeholders must become involved in the research process in its early stages. Negotiations of intellectual property rights and restrictions from conflict of interest rules were among the most commonly mentioned barriers to collaboration.

Forum leaders will produce a published paper based on participant input from the event. The forum already has spurred the formation of several work groups to tackle challenges. The NIH community is invited to participate in the work groups. To volunteer or learn more, contact Lili Portilla, [portilll@mail.nih.gov](mailto:portilll@mail.nih.gov). Speakers’ slide presentations and a summary of the forum will be available at [www.palladianpartners.com/CTSAIndustryForum](http://www.palladianpartners.com/CTSAIndustryForum). A videocast of the event can be viewed at <http://videocast.nih.gov>. ●

## ORS Urges Familiarity with Evacuation Plans, Drills

The ability to evacuate your building safely in the event of an emergency is critical. Evacuation drills are required twice a year by HHS and are governed by the NIH Occupant Evacuation Plan. All employees should be familiar with building evacuation procedures and cooperate with evacuation staff during both drills and in emergency situations. The Occupant Emergency Coordinator for your building can discuss evacuation protocols if you have questions.

The ORS Division of Emergency Preparedness and Coordination manages the evacuation plan for NIH, which includes all on- and off-campus buildings. While actual emergencies can occur at any time, evacuation drills are scheduled only in spring and fall, when the weather is mild.

Emergencies such as fires, smoke and accidental release of hazardous materials are risks we all face at NIH. Last year, the NIH Fire Department responded to 2,174 emergency incidents on the Bethesda campus. Seventeen were actual fires; most were minor, resulting in no structural damage.

The NIH Occupant Evacuation Plan contains special provisions for people with temporary or permanent disabilities who may need assistance in evacuating and for the hearing-impaired who may not easily detect audible evacuation alarms.

A relatively new initiative called shelter-in-place is intended to provide occupant protection when conditions outside are hazardous and when remaining inside the building is safer than exiting. Events such as severe weather could trigger a decision to shelter-in-place. It is designed as a short-term solution, lasting from 15 minutes to several hours. In cases where the outside air may be contaminated, engineering staff will shut down air intakes to prevent or minimize contaminated air from entering buildings. Shelter-in-place staff have been trained to assist other building occupants during this situation; many buildings have supplies on hand (radios, flashlights, etc.).

For more information on building evacuation procedures and sheltering-in-place, including training, or to find the Occupant Emergency Coordinator in your building, visit [http://ser.ors.od.nih.gov/emergency\\_prep.htm](http://ser.ors.od.nih.gov/emergency_prep.htm). You may also call the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Coordination at (301) 496-1985 with any questions.



*NIH director Dr. Francis Collins opens the National Center for Research Resources’ 2-day forum to promote better partnerships among biomedical research sectors.*



# milestones

## Grants Management Guru Cohn Ends Long NIGMS Career

By Jilliene Mitchell

Marcia Cohn has witnessed many changes during her 31-year career at NIGMS: the growth of the grants management staff from 10 to 31, the transition from typewriters to computers and a budget increase from less than a million dollars to almost \$2 billion. Feb. 3 marked another change for Cohn—retirement from her position as a grants management officer.

“Marcia’s been an exemplary employee and supervisor, dedicated to the mission of NIH and continually contributing toward improving processes and the professional development of staff,” said NIGMS chief grants management officer Grace Olascoaga. “With her technical knowledge of grants management, she has made significant contributions to the NIGMS and NIH grants management communities, from helping to write policy documents to supporting a professional certification program and enhancing hiring practices.”

Cohn joined NIGMS in 1978 as a clerk-typist in the Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology (GDB) after earning a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Maryland. Four years later, she accepted a position as a grants management specialist trainee working on the GDB grant portfolio.

“I enjoyed working in GDB—and I discovered that I wanted to go into grants administration. I already had a general overview from working with the program staff and interacting with the grants administration branch, so it seemed it would be the right fit for me,” said Cohn. In 1988, she took on a supervisory position serving as the GDB grants management officer.

“I’ve known Marcia for almost as many years as she’s been at NIGMS,” said GDB director Dr. Judith Greenberg. “She’s been absolutely great to work with. I could depend on Marcia’s knowledge and good judgment, and I’ll really miss all the fun we had coming up with solutions to some of the most complex grant situations you could imagine.”

During her NIGMS career, Cohn served on numerous committees including STEP, the

grants management advisory committee (GMAC), the GMAC certification board, the administrative training committee/Administrative Fellows Program and the HHS hiring reform committee. In addition, she helped plan and organize the NIGMS implementation of eGrants and eAdditions. One of Cohn’s most notable contributions to the NIH community was a performance exercise that she developed to improve the way NIH grants management supervisors hire new staff.



Marcia Cohn (r), shown here with Grace Olascoaga, celebrated her retirement with her NIGMS friends recently.

“We created several mathematical computation questions that reflect the types of problems an individual would face in a grants management job. In 2000, we began using the exercise to help us figure out if applicants were qualified to handle grants management positions,” Cohn said.

Cohn says that she has enjoyed “giving back” by mentoring new grants management staff and plans to serve in a related role during her retirement. “I love people, teaching and serving as a resource—and I plan to continue volunteering at a local elementary school day care reading program.” She also plans to exercise, travel and visit her NIGMS friends when possible.

“I will miss the people the most,” said Cohn. “I have had the best team to work with—people who are hardworking, committed to the mission and genuinely care about each other.”

## NICHD’s Gandjbakhche Honored

Dr. Amir Gandjbakhche, head of NICHD’s section on analytical and functional biophotonics, has been named a fellow of SPIE, an international society advancing light-based research. He is one of 62 new fellows honored for having made significant scientific and technical contributions in the multidisciplinary fields of optics, photonics and imaging. Gandjbakhche was cited for his achievements in biomedical optics, specifically his mathematical modeling of how light moves through complex biological systems, including cancerous tissue. His work has led to improved imaging of breast tumors and Kaposi’s sarcoma, providing quantitative ways to monitor angiogenesis and the effects of chemotherapy. He also has served the society by co-chairing five SPIE-organized NIH inter-institute workshops on optical diagnostic imaging from bench to bedside and by serving on the editorial board of the SPIE Journal of Biomedical Optics since 2000.



## CSR's Amir Retires, Hands Over Reins of Alumni Association



*Dr. Syed Amir retired from CSR after 22 years.*

"It is very easy to become completely lost once you retire," said Dr. Syed Amir, before he retired from CSR after 22 years. "Most of us stay interested in what's going on at CSR...and we want to know about friends we worked with."

Fortunately for Amir and other CSR retirees, retiring doesn't mean they're cut off. They can join the unofficial CSR Alumni Association, which Amir led for 2½ years prior to retiring.

For nearly 10 years, a group of CSR retirees and employees have quietly met three times a year for lunch to mull over issues vital to science, life and health—often their own.

At a recent meeting, members found a shared opportunity to laugh about it. "Every morning is a good day as long as you can get out of bed and put two feet on the ground," said one member. Another quickly chimed in: "The golden years are so overrated and so full of doctor's appointments. But I am having fun traveling."

The meetings are simple. Everyone introduces themselves and gives an update on what's happening in their lives. They often share stories about exotic travels, births of grandchildren, deaths of beloveds, new relationships, illnesses and the road to recovery and, of course, the good old days of scientific review.

"It's a big benefit," said Amir. "It allows you to remain in touch and reminisce."

Amir has many stories to share. He grew up in a small town in India. "We didn't have any electricity," he said. "I did my homework at night using a paraffin lamp." He was about 7 when Mahatma Gandhi was murdered. "We were traumatized," he said, but there was no friction between the Hindus and Muslims in his small town. "Everyone knew everyone," said Amir.

"My father was a physician," he said. "For three generations my forefathers practiced the Indian system of medicine." His father wanted him to learn western medicine. After earning an M.Sc. at Aligarh University in India, Amir took a job in Pakistan, which sent him to the University of Birmingham in England, where he earned his Ph.D. studying sugar-amino acid model compounds that mimic linkages that occur in glycoprotein hormones. After completing his post-doctoral studies there, he returned to Pakistan and was a senior research officer at the Pakistan Council of Scientific Research.

He then came to the United States in 1969. He spent 2 years at the University of California

before moving to Harvard University, where he was an assistant professor, studying the thyroid stimulator in women with molar pregnancy who suffered from severe thyroid hyperfunction.

Amir came to the NIH Division of Research Grants (now CSR) in 1987. After coordinating reviews of fellowship applications, he managed the endocrinology study section. When it was reorganized in 1992, it was split and Amir managed one of the new review groups: the molecular and cellular endocrinology study section. Most recently, he was scientific review officer for the integrative, clinical endocrinology and reproduction study section.

"I'm not tired of it," said Amir. "I enjoyed interacting with my reviewers and colleagues...I'm just at the stage in my life when I have decided to do something else. I'm interested in writing for Pakistani newspapers here and in Pakistan...and in attending lectures at the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution and classes at Montgomery College."

There will be many adventures and challenges ahead, but Amir won't be lost. He has passed the reins for leading the CSR Alumni Association to Josephine Pelham, who will continue to invite CSR family members to sit awhile and share.



## NIEHS's Paules Honored with 'Leading Edge' Award

*NIEHS principal investigator Dr. Richard Paules received the 2010 Leading Edge in Basic Science Award at the Society of Toxicology annual meeting Mar. 7-11 in Salt Lake City. He was honored for his pioneering*

*work advancing the fields of toxicogenomics and predictive toxicology over the past 15 years. Paules heads the Environmental Stress and Cancer Group and directs the Microarray Core Facility at NIEHS. He was recognized "for his work in the integration of genomics into the investigation of the molecular basis of injury and disease processes." The commendation noted his administrative and scientific leadership and his advocacy of the development of publicly accessible databases to facilitate discovery research using 'omics methodologies. The awards committee emphasized the importance of his leading edge proof-of-concept studies in the development of predictive biomarkers of the initiation and progression of those processes. Paules and colleagues have employed toxicogenomic approaches to develop predictive tests for preventing and treating liver damage well before it shows up on the clinical chemistry tests currently used.*

PHOTO: ED KANG



## CSR's Bunnag Retires After 35 Years

Dr. Bill Bunnag is a lucky man, and his lucky number is 9. "I came to this country in 1959. I married in 1969, and I retired in 2009," he explained when he retired from the Center for Scientific Review after 35 years at NIH. He was the scientific review officer for the biomedical computing and health informatics study section and also a referral officer.



Luck was with him after he got his Ph.D. in biological sciences from George Washington University in 1973. "Nixon had declared war on cancer, and I wrote to NCI," said Bunnag. "They were looking for somebody with my background." He was a certified cytotechnologist and NCI hired him right away to help oversee contracts and program efforts to automate cervical cancer screening. It was an exciting time. Bunnag was involved in evaluating—among other approaches—high-altitude reconnaissance technology from the Cold War to look at the typology of malignant cells.

Bunnag's success wasn't just luck. "He is a hard worker," said CSR director Dr. Toni Scarpa. "He is known for the quiet and diligent way he excels in whatever task he takes on." For instance, he completed his B.S., M.S., M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees at GW while a full-time employee, on employee scholarships.

After serving as executive secretary of NCI's committee on cytology automation, Bunnag became chief of NCI's pathology-cytology automation section and later served as executive secretary of the diagnosis research advisory group. He then moved to NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Prevention, where he was program director for extramural activities before becoming a program director in its Cancer Training Branch.

In 1988, Bunnag joined the new NCI Office of Technology Development to help implement the Technology Transfer Act.

After a short time at NCRR, he came to the Division of Research Grants (now CSR) in 1990 to coordinate reviews of small business applications for research in biomedical computing and health informatics. It was a job he never tired of. "I'm very grateful for the small ways I made a contribution," he said. "I enjoyed looking at future research in medical informatics including telemedicine, teleimaging, telesurgery...and seeing these technologies come into use and save lives."

During his tenure, Bunnag played a key role in supporting diversity at NIH. He is a past president of the NIH Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization. And he was the first chairman of the Asian/Pacific Islander employment committee. "We looked at NIH systemically to make sure we were treated on our own merits," he said. He was pleased with what he discovered: "NIH has been a leader in so many ways, in equality, opportunity, encouragement, retention and recruitment...NIH excels because NIH cares."

"It has been my genuine privilege to serve NIH," he continued. "I am grateful to have had the opportunity." 🐼



### Healthy Smokers Needed

The Mood & Anxiety Disorders Program, NIMH, is looking for healthy volunteers with no current or history of psychiatric illness, between the ages of 18 and 65, to participate in a multitude of studies. Studies may include: PET and/or MRI scans, psychological interview and neuropsychological testing, depending on the study you choose to participate in. Call (301) 435-8982 for more information.

### Postpartum Depression Research Studies

Women ages 18-45 who struggle with postpartum depression or who had PPD in the past are invited to participate in outpatient research studies. There is no cost for participation. Compensation may be provided. Call (301) 496-9576 and refer to study 03-M-0138.

### PMS Studies Need Volunteers

Women ages 18-50 who struggle with irritability, anxiety, or sadness prior to menstruation are invited to participate in outpatient research studies on premenstrual syndrome. There is no cost for participation. Compensation may be provided. Call (301) 496-9576 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study 81-M-0126.

### Midlife, Menopause Study Stopping Hormone Therapy

Women ages 45-65 who have taken hormone therapy for perimenopausal mood changes are invited to participate in an outpatient research study. There is no cost for participation. Compensation is provided. Call (301) 496-9576 and refer to study 03-M-0175.

## Ancient Medical Treasure

### NLM's 'Turning The Pages' Lets Users Explore Egyptian Medical Papyrus

History and high-tech merge in a new offering from the National Library of Medicine. It's a novel twist on NLM's popular online system, Turning The Pages, which allows you to turn the pages of a rare book on your computer screen. Now, users can journey back to pre-book times and "unroll the scroll" or, more specifically, the Edwin Smith Papyrus, the world's oldest known surgical document. The scroll is at <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/ttp/flash/smith/smith.html>.

The Smith Papyrus was written in Egyptian hieratic script around the 17th century BCE but probably based on material from a thousand years earlier. This collaborative online representation features a new translation by James P. Allen, formerly of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and high-resolution scans lent by the scroll's owner, the New York Academy of Medicine.

"The Smith Papyrus is extremely important," said NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg, "because it showed for the first time that Egyptians had a scientific understanding of traumatic injuries based on observable anatomy rather than relying on magic or potions."

The text is a treatise on trauma surgery and consists of 48 cases dealing with wounds and trauma. Each case is laid out using a carefully prescribed formula: a description of the injury, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and further case explanations that resemble footnotes.

"This papyrus is unlike most other medical papyri in that it is chiefly rational and does not usually bring the supernatural into the explanations or treatments for injuries—for instance, there is only one incantation," said Michael North, curator of the project and of rare books in the library's History of Medicine Division.

Fortunately for potential viewers of the scroll, computer scientists at NLM also relied on sound scientific principles rather than magic to devise a system that allows the unfurling of the scroll on a computer.

"The technical challenges of digitally transforming and making this scroll available on a personal computer were enormous," said Dr. George Thoma, chief of the Communications



Engineering Branch at NLM's Lister Hill Center. He led the library's technical efforts and team. "As far as I know, we may be the only library in the world that has mastered the computation and technology to create an easily usable virtual scroll for a personal computer user."

For Turning The Pages technical requirements for computers, visit <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/ttp/requirements.htm>.

*Now, users can journey back to pre-book times and "unroll the scroll," the world's oldest known surgical document.*

### Conference To Explore the Science of Community Engagement

The National Center for Research Resources' Clinical and Translational Science Awards Consortium will conduct its third annual conference on community engagement May 13-14 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va.

"Partnering to Improve Health: The Science of Community Engagement" will emphasize the scientific rigor of community engagement and how to identify and secure local and regional resources. Participants will discuss ways to build effective collaborations with community partners to increase clinical research study participation and improve health outcomes, along with methods, models and outcomes that demonstrate measurable health improvements. The event also will feature a poster session.

To attend the conference, register by May 10 at [www.aptrweb.org/prof\\_dev/ce\\_registration.html](http://www.aptrweb.org/prof_dev/ce_registration.html).

For more information, visit [www.aptrweb.org/prof\\_dev/ce\\_workshop.html](http://www.aptrweb.org/prof_dev/ce_workshop.html) or contact Donna Jo McCloskey at [mccloskd@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mccloskd@mail.nih.gov) or (301) 451-4216.